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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (18 Apr 68) FOR OT RD 681197

25 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, I Field
Force Vietnam Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

1 Incl
as

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
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- Commanding Officers
 - 4th Brigade, 6th Infantry Division
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY
APO 96350
UIC WFFHTO

AVFA-AT-D

19 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending (31 January 1968), Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

TO: See Distribution

SECTION 1 (C) Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

1. (C) General.

a. (U) During the period 1 November 1967 through 31 January 1968, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery continued to support United States, Vietnamese and Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF) in II Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ).

b. (C) I Field Force Vietnam Artillery units, totaling two artillery groups, eleven battalions, five separate batteries and six detachments, supported all major operations in II CTZ to include operations BOLLING, DYRD (MC LAIN), MAC ARTHUR and PERSHING. Support was rendered Republic of Korea Force in the 9th and Capitol Infantry Division areas of operation during Operations NINH HOA 2, MANG HO 9, HUNG DAONG 823 and HYE CAN GIM. Support to ARVN forces was rendered throughout II CTZ to units of the 22d and 23d ARVN Divisions, the 24th Special Tactical Zone and in provincial defense.

c. (U) Positioning of Heavy Artillery. An extensive study of heavy artillery assets within I FFORCEV Artillery resulted in a basic positioning plan. This plan utilizes fully the firepower, accuracy and long range interdiction capability of heavy artillery by displacing to supplementary firing positions on short notice, thereby extending coverage and bringing fires on enemy positions considered previously as sanctuaries.

d. (U) Support of Special Forces. I FFORCEV Artillery groups established liaison with special forces B detachments in II CTZ to insure adequate artillery support is provided special forces camps and operations. Thus far support has included training assistance at those camps equipped with artillery for forward observers, gun crews and fire direction.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending
(31 January 1968), Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U) 4

personnel; providing forward observers and quick fire channels for operations; and exchanging intelligence information.

e. (C-NOFORN) Assistance to ARVN Artillery.

(1) During the reporting period a thorough study was completed to determine means of assisting in the improvement of ARVN artillery effectiveness. A major purpose of the study was to determine procedures to improve coordination of fire between US and ARVN artillery. The study group concluded:

(a) ARVN artillery units appear to be well trained and knowledgeable in the fundamentals of artillery. Their officers are capable, and a comprehensive training program is in effect.

(b) Limitations are placed upon the effect of ARVN artillery fire by the static nature of its mission, the large area to be covered by a small number of units and inadequate support and equipment.

(c) The coordination of fire between ARVN and other FWMAF is inefficient because of communications difficulty and lack of coordination of forces operating in the same area. The most effective method of insuring close fire support coordination is through the use of joint operations.

(2) Recommendations for improving assistance to ARVN included.

(a) Coordination of the efforts of FWMAF maneuver units on the highest level possible leading towards more efficient fire coordination and allocation of artillery units.

(b) ARVN Artillery units continue to be furnished training support by US artillery units when requested.

(c) US units continue to provide limited maintenance and logistic support when requested by the battalion advisor.

(d) US technical facilities such as metro and survey be made available to ARVN units wherever possible. To insure that met data is effective, a program should be established by which US units, in conjunction with ARVN survey teams, perform a fall of shot calibration of ARVN units which can receive met messages.

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(e) US air observers should be used to register ARVN weapons.

(f) Liaison be established between US and ARVN artillery units at the lowest fire coordination level.

(g) Recommendations of the study group have been implemented in part during the reporting period. Progress has been made in Pleiku, Dak To and in the Pershing AD in the areas of fire support coordination, training assistance and provision of meteorological data. I FFORCEV Artillery provided training support for both ARVN artillery and maneuver units during the reporting period. Forward observer training courses were presented to company grade officers of the 40th, 41st and 47th ARVN Regiments; maintenance and survey courses were presented; and ARVN artillery fire missions are being processed through US artillery FADAC, integrating fires of adjacent units.

f. (U) On 18 November 1967 Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery opened officially a field ration mess hall and served the first meal since arrival in RVN. Prior to this date Headquarters Battery personnel subsisted with 237th Transportation Company (CAR). The Mess Hall is responsible for feeding two TOE and three TA units with an average daily headcount of 300 personnel.

g. (C) The 5th Battalion, 22d Artillery (175mm gun, self propelled) arrived in country on 24 December 1967 and was attached to 52d Artillery Group effective 1 January 1968. 41st Artillery Group hosted the unit during their in processing period. The battalion was assigned the mission of General Support of the US/ARVN/FWMAF in II CTZ on 15 January 1968. Battalion base camp was established at AN KHE.

h. (U) On 3 January 1968 Lieutenant General William B. Rosson, Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam presented Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery the Meritorious Unit Citation for the period November 1966 to July 1968. The ceremony was conducted at the 5th Special Force Group (Airborne) quadrangle, Nha Trang. In addition to General Rosson, the reviewing party included Brigadier General James G. Kalergis, Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery. Colonel Frank A. Chance, Jr, Deputy Artillery Commander was Commander of Troops.

i. (C) On 7 January 1968, Battery A, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery was relieved from attachment with 5th Battalion, 14th Artillery and rejoined its parent battalion in I CTZ.

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j. (C) 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery (-) completed movement to I CTZ on 23 January 1963 when elements from battalion headquarters and Battery B joined Battery A in support of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the Hue/Phu Bai area.

2. (U) Intelligence.

a. Intelligence Summary (INTSUM). The first I FFORCEV Artillery INTSUM was dispatched on 6 January 1963. The INTSUM contains significant artillery intelligence reported by units attached to I FFORCEV Artillery. Intelligence reported is consolidated by the I FFORCEV Artillery S2 Section and disseminated to I FFORCEV G2, 5th Special Forces Group and all artillery units including the division artillery and separate brigades. Increased emphasis on artillery target intelligence is expected to result in more timely and accurate target acquisition and will increase the effectiveness of artillery fires.

b. Surveillance.

(1) Aerial Surveillance: An increase in allocation of surveillance aircraft (OLE) to I FFORCEV Artillery from 9 to 17 during the reporting quarter has enabled a significant increase in the surveillance effort of force artillery units. This increase resulted in increased target acquisition and improved target surveillance.

(2) Ground Surveillance: A program of ground observation from within or near each firing battery position has been initiated in I FFORCEV Artillery. The objective of the ground surveillance program is to take advantage of every opportunity to detect enemy activity and to obtain general battlefield intelligence. Well fortified observation posts are constructed from which observers are able to provide timely and accurate data on enemy firing positions during mortar or rocket attacks.

3. (C) Operations and Training Activities.

a. (C) Operations.

(1) (U) SITREP.

(a) On 25 December 1962, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery initiated a revised system for reporting artillery,

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naval gunfire and tactical air ammunition expenditures. The new SITREP provides more meaningful data regarding the manner in which fire support resources are being employed. All expenditures are now reported by target category as follows:

<u>Artillery and Naval Gunfire</u>	<u>Tactical Air</u>
Confirmed	Landing Zone Construction
Acquired	Landing Zone Preparation
Counterbattery	Preparatory Fires
Preparation	Close Air Support
Interdiction	Convoy Cover
Special Purpose	Known Enemy Locations
Others	Suspected Enemy Locations
	Interdiction Missions

Support given to ARVN Forces is monitored on a monthly basis.

(b) The purpose of developing a more definitive report and analysis system is to provide a vehicle for channeling the efforts of all fire support agencies toward common objectives, which are: To direct firepower against the enemy so as to make the most efficient and coordinated use possible of integrated fire support resources; and to obtain maximum utilization of all ordnance expended.

(c) Initial indications are that the system has begun to channel efforts of fire support agencies in the right direction and that it will provide an excellent management and evaluation tool by:

1. Inducing a growing awareness of the requirement for expanded target acquisition efforts.

2. Illustrating the necessity for adherence to proper fire support procedures.

3. Focusing attention on the need for coordinated integration of all fire support means.

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4 Providing an accurate and definitive indication as to which elements are using fire support most effectively.

5 Aiding tactical commanders in their evaluation of specific firing units, naval gunfire resources and use of tactical air when redeployment or realignment of forces is being considered.

(2) (U) In January 1968 Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery initiated a daily staff briefing for officers and senior noncommissioned officers of the entire staff. A member of the Fire Support Coordination Element (FSCE) covers the significant activities in areas of Operations and Intelligence for South Vietnam with special emphasis on II CTZ. A member of the SF Operations section covers all I Force Artillery unit moves. On a rotating basis each staff section briefs an item of interest pertaining to the section. The primary purpose of the daily staff briefing is to keep all staff sections and individuals informed fully on the tactical situation, artillery support and other areas of interest.

(3) (U) Statistics for US Artillery in II Corps Tactical Zone for the reporting quarter: (Final report under old categories of expenditures)

(a) Missions fired:

	NOV	DEC	JAN
H&I	4111	2771	4111
OBSERVED	8727	10527	5750
UNOBSERVED	5393	4370	3224

(b) Ammunition Expenditures

MONTH	CALIBER	RDS EXPENDED	% OF TOTAL	ROUNDS/TUBE/DAY
NOV	105	220,095	72%	44
	155	75,111	19%	39
	3"	23,322	7%	23
	175	<u>7,524</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>21</u>
Subtotal		326,452	100%	44*

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DEC	105	230,148	72%	44
	155	54,606	17%	30
	8"	21,436	7%	27
	175	<u>7,613</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>14</u>
Subtotal		313,203	100%	85*
JAN	105	168,277	65%	21
	155	52,496	21%	20
	8"	23,212	9%	21
	175	<u>11,914</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>14</u>
Subtotal		255,899	100%	83*
Total		959,154	100%	88*

*Prorated average.

(4) (C) Artillery Strength. The following chart reflects artillery tube strength by caliber for US, ARVN and RVMAF Artillery units in II CTE at the end of the quarter.

CALIBER	105mm	155mm	8 Inch	175mm
US Divisional	77	18	4	0
ROK Divisional	108	36	0	0
US Force Artillery	72	34	20	23
ARVN Artillery	91	42	0	0
Special Forces Arty	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	366	130	24	23

b. (U) Training.

(1) To increase professionalism within the artillery and to insure a safe transition into combat operations for newly arrived personnel, two courses of instruction for I FFORCEV Artillery and divisional artillery units have been initiated by this headquarters beginning 3 January 1968.

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(a) Forward Observer Training Course (FOTC). Conducted four times per month at 2d Bn, 17th Arty for a maximum of 12 students/class, FOTC consists of eight hours of classroom instruction and 24 hours service practice and practical application. FOTC covers duties of the FO team, equipment, mapreading, comm, mission of artillery, fire planning, rules of engagement, coordination and clearance of fire, TAC Air, Aerial Rocket Artillery, Naval support, night firing and lessons learned.

(b) Fire Direction Officer Training Course (FDOTC). Conducted four times per month at 3d Bn, 8th Arty for a maximum of 13 students/class, FDOTC covers organization of the FDC, duties of personnel, rules of engagement, coordination and clearance of fires, equipment, determination of chart data, friendly elements, computation of firing data, completion of forms, registrations, metro, VE, FADAC, deflection and fuse corrections, data for replot high angle fire, observed and surveyed firing charts, safety, extensive practical application and lessons learned.

(c) Operation of these courses is not expected to be a panacea but should prove a step forward in insuring the timely and accurate delivery of devastating fires on the enemy. Continued and vigorous training at the lowest levels for all elements of the gunnery chain is still required to insure traditional artillery professionalism.

(2) Personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery were engaged in 92 days of mission oriented operations. Required mandatory and on-the-job training was conducted concurrently for 58 days.

4. (U) Personnel.

a. Personnel and Administration. Strength figures of Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery on 31 January 1968 were:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Authorized	34	2	159
Assigned	32	3	155
Present for Duty	32	2	154

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b. Rest and Recuperation Program.

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
Quotas Received	17	13	17
Quotas Utilized	9	10	15
Percentage Utilized	53%	53%	88%

c. Awards and Decorations. The following awards and decorations were processed during this period for units of I FFORCEV Artillery:

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
ACM	30	23	60
ACM (V)	30	0	1
BS	29	24	52
BS (V)	4	4	4
LM	1	0	2
SS	1	1	3
SM	12	2	6
AM	4	12	17
PH	12	3	5

d. Accidents: The following accidents were recorded during this period for units of I FFORCEV Artillery.

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
Vehicular	20	8	7
Other	3	5	7

e. Morale and Discipline: Morale and discipline have continued to be excellent throughout the reporting period.

SECTION 2 (U) Commander's Observations and Recommendations.

PART I Observations (Lessons Learned).

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending (31 January 1969), Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-35 (U)

1. Operations.

Item: Employment of the Xenon Searchlight AN/MSS-3.

Discussion: The Xenon Searchlight AN/MSS-3 can be employed effectively to deny the enemy access to villages within the visible light range of the searchlight. A searchlight which has been placed on a hill with ROK forces has been employed effectively in denying free entry and exit of VC/NVA forces into surrounding Vietnamese villages. The searchlight's visible light beam is placed on villages at random times for irregular lengths of time throughout the night. A signal system has also been established with the villages whereby they are able to request light upon their villages should suspicious activity be noted.

Observation: Established liaison with villages in range of searchlights has prevented free access to VC/NVA forces attempting to obtain food, capture villages, etc.

2. Intelligence.

a. Item: Use of Aerial Photography in Artillery Surveys.

Discussion: A ground reconnaissance must be made prior to publishing a survey operations order. The ground recon should be preceded by a map and photo recon. Detailed and up to date information normally not available on a map may be extracted from aerial photographs. The use of aerial photographs and maps has resulted in the following:

(1) A more detailed map/photo reconnaissance may be accomplished which includes:

(a) Sight alignment between points (map).

(b) Accessibility of points to be occupied (i.e., landing zones, trails, steepness of slopes, vegetation and ruggedness of the terrain) (Aerial Photo).

(c) Probable positions in which to place SCPs on or near man made objects constructed after map was printed; (i.e., many hill tops are now occupied by military units or civilian hamlets) (Aerial Photo).

(d) The probability of being able to recover existing survey control points. (Aerial Photo).

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending (31 January 1933), Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

(2) Small units that might require survey control may be located and included in the planning. (Map/Aerial Photo).

(3) Actual ground reconnaissance of some points is eliminated because sufficient information can be extracted directly from the photograph. (Aerial Photo).

(4) The Survey Officer may more readily identify a mountain, road, SCP when comparing photo-to-ground from an aircraft. (Aerial Photo).

(5) Exposure to hostile fire and reconnaissance time is reduced to a minimum. (Map/Aerial Photo).

(C) The photographs may be used to brief key survey personnel who could not accompany the Survey Officer on the reconnaissance. (Aerial Photo).

Observation: Using the Photographic Interpretation kit, available at Force level, the time spent on field reconnaissance is reduced greatly as specific points to be checked are pre-planned and "wandering around" for alternate positions is virtually eliminated.

b. Item: Use of commercial power for the AN/MPQ-10A and AN/MPQ-4A radar sets.

Discussion: During the month of December, an attempt was made to use commercial power at the AN/MPQ-10A radar site, Section #2, 8th TAB, 23th Artillery, located at Nha Trang. The power cables of the radar were connected directly to a public utility cable. It was found that during the hours of darkness the peak load flowing through the public utility cable caused extreme fluctuation and oscillation in the radar set.

Observation: If commercial power is to be used for radar sites, the power for required operation would have to be transformed through a power distribution system. The use of commercial power would preserve the life of generator sets organic to these radars. The generator sets could be used as an emergency means of power for the radar in the event of power failure or power shut down during alerts or attacks.

3. Fire Support Coordination Element.

a. Item: Targeting of Interdiction Fires.

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Discussion: Targeting process for interdiction fires has not been making sufficient use of current intelligence. Interdiction fires have been planned, based on intuition and experience, on trails, stream junction, etc, instead of on areas where there is a high probability of enemy presence. The fragmentation of artillery units has also contributed to the situation, as more and more interdiction fire planning is done at lower echelons which do not have rapid access to intelligence agencies. Intelligence available to targeting agencies at all levels has tended to be too stale for targeting purposes.

Observation: Division and Corps level FSCE's have the personnel and the resources to overcome these shortcomings. It is necessary to establish a direct channel of communication between the FSCE/FSCE and the G2 to insure current intelligence in the form of prisoner interrogation, agent, aerial and ground reconnaissance reports is made available for targeting use while it is still valid. By targeting on a daily basis and utilizing the most current intelligence available, the FSCE/FSCE can produce interdiction programs which will result in a higher probability of inflicting significant damage on the enemy.

b. Item: Targeting on B52 strikes.

Discussion: Targeting for B52 strikes has been accomplished many times without a complete analysis. B52 targets should meet the following criteria:

(1) The target must be of sufficient importance to warrant the heavy expenditure of ordnance.

(2) It must be of a permanent or semipermanent nature due to the time factor involved in coordinating the strike.

Observation: Effective targeting requires that all intelligence be screened and analyzed to determine if the area under study meets the above criteria. In addition to the location, nature, size and shape of the target, the following information must be determined:

(1) Vulnerability of the target i.e. bunkers with overhead cover, foxholes, etc.

(2) Capability: Does target pose a major threat to friendly troops? Does the target have the capability of moving rapidly?

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(3) Recuperability: Can target recuperate soon after the strike to pose a continued threat to friendly troops?

(4) Terrain: Hilly, flat or heavily wooded terrain will affect the level of damage that can be accomplished.

(5) Proximity to friendly troops, religious monuments, national shrines or friendly civilians must be considered.

After considering all the above, the target box must be planned to inflict maximum damage on the enemy while holding the level of risk to all friendly personnel and installations to a minimum. Once a target is chosen it must be updated continually to determine continuing validity. With proper analysis and targeting techniques the B52 strike can yield better results.

PART II Recommendations. None.

James G. Kalergis

1 Incl
Organizational Structure

JAMES G. KALERGIS
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending (31 January
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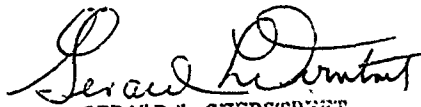
HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

6 MAR 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

Concur.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


GERALD L. OVERSTREET
COLONEL, AGC
ADJUTANT GENERAL

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AVHGC-DST (19 Feb 68) 2d Ind
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Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 10 MAR 1968

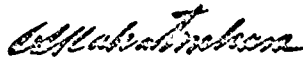
TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1968 from Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery (FFHA) as indorsed.

2. Concur with report as indorsed. Report is considered adequate.

3. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies furnished:
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HQ, IFFORCEV ARTY

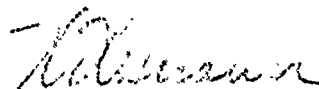
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GPOP-DT (19 Feb 68) 3d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, I Fld Force Vn Arty for Period
Ending 31 January 1968 (RCS CSFOR-65)(R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 29 MAR 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG

21.0000

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SUBJECT: (Organizational Structure) to Operational Report
for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

(FOUO) Artillery units attached to I Field Force Vietnam
Artillery at the end of the reporting period were:

I FFORCEV Artillery

5th Battalion, 27th Artillery (105mm T)

6th Battalion, 32d Artillery (175mm/8 inch SP)

41st Artillery Group

7th Battalion, 13th Artillery (105mm T)

Battery C, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery (155mm T)

7th Battalion, 15th Artillery (175mm/8 inch SP)

Battery C, 6th Battalion, 13th Artillery (155mm T)

2d Battalion, 17th Artillery (105mm T/155mm T)

1st Battalion, 30th Artillery (-) (155mm T)

4th Battalion, 30th Artillery (AWSF)

Battery B, 29th Artillery (Searchlight)

Battery E, 41st Artillery (MG)

Headquarters Battery, 8th Target Acquisition Battalion,
26th Artillery

77th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)

237th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)

241st Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)

242d Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)

243d Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)

244th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar)

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AVFA-AT-D

SUBJECT: (Organizational Structure) to Operational Report
for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-66 (U)

52d Artillery Group

3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (105mm SP)

6th Battalion, 14th Artillery (175mm/8 inch SP)

5th Battalion, 22d Artillery (175mm SP)

1st Battalion, 92d Artillery (155mm T)

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